

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

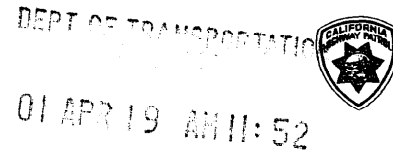
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Docket Clerk
U.S. Department of Transportation
Dockets Management Facility
400 Seventh Street, SW, Room PL-400
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Docket No. FMCSA-2000-7017 - 24

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) supports the proposal to apply safety regulations to interstate motor carriers transporting passengers in vehicles designed to carry between 9 and 15 passengers. However, without a mechanism in place to determine who the regulations would apply to, on-highway enforcement personnel may find it difficult to determine if the vehicles stopped for inspection/safety reasons are subject.

Therefore, the CHP recommends applying this requirement to all interstate for-hire passenger carrying commercial motor vehicle operators using the above described type of vehicles. In this case, enforcement personnel can reference and apply appropriate safety requirements unilaterally.

In California, the Public Utilities Commission regulates for-hire passenger transportation in any vehicle, regardless of passenger capacity (taxis excluded, as they are regulated by the city in which they operate). The CHP regulates all for-hire passenger vehicles designed to transport more than 10 persons, including the driver.

In order to maintain compatibility, the State of California, in support of the safety aspect of this proposal, would have to amend the existing bus definition in the California Vehicle Code to reflect this change.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment to this proposal. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Captain Jim Abrames, Commander of our Commercial Vehicle Section, at (916) 445-1865.

Sincerely,

FOR

M. J. PADILLA, Chief
Enforcement Services Division

